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A transportation bill which will bring about \$13 million in federal funding for local road projects passed the U.S. House of Representatives Friday.

The bill, known as the Transportation Equity Act, passed 357-65. Both U.S. Rep. Phil Crane, R-8th, and U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo, R-16th, voted for it.

The bill moves to the Senate for reconciliation, then back to the House for conference and a final vote. The bill faces uncertainty from the White House. President Bush may veto it, indicating it may be too costly. He is urging fiscal restraint as the federal deficit rises.

If approved, the bill will provide \$217 billion nationally for highways, \$51 billion for mass transit projects, and \$6 billion for safety and research programs for the next six years. Illinois stands to receive \$7.2 billion in funding for highway projects, a 28 percent increase from the last federal transportation bill, which expired Sept. 30, 2003.

On March 25, Crane announced the part of his district in McHenry County was allotted:

- \$5 million to widen Miller Road from two to four lanes between routes 31 and 120 in McHenry County.

Manzullo secured \$7.9 million in long-range funding for two projects in southeastern McHenry Count, including:

- \$4 million to widen Algonquin Road to five lanes between Route 31 and Randall Road, which will help pay for the \$18 million cost of the 2.5-mile project, and
- \$3.9 million for McHenry County to widen Route 47 to five lanes between Kreutzer and Reed roads.

"I know road congestion is McHenry County's number one problem, and securing road funding is my number one priority," Manzullo said in a statement. "I will work hard to make sure this funding survives the legislative process and is signed into law."

Crane agrees.

"This funding is critical to addressing one of the top issues in our state and especially in the 8th District -- improving transportation," Crane said in a statement. "Through this bill, Illinois will get a better return on the money it sends to Washington to fund projects that are central to improving the condition of our roads and relieving traffic congestion."